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Progress of the Pacific.

It is interesting to note the English view of the American Philippine muddle.

The English View.

"The News from the Philippines, reaching London through private sources, is not encouraging. Speculation has begun as to whether the United States, in the long-run, will find the game worth the candle of holding and governing their new Eastern possessions. The unaffected pleasure with which the average Englishman has witnessed the substitution of the American flag for that of Spain in this Oriental Alsacia is easily intelligible. Sincere friends of the United States, however, are completely at a loss to understand the grounds for a policy of expansion which, under all conditions, involves enormous cost, even if every dollar of the Philippine trade flowed into American coffers. The administration of India is only possible to England because Hindustan is rich enough to give the British garrison free quarters and to pay the cost of the civil administration. If the Indian budget were to exhibit any such deficit as that which is inevitable in the Philippine balance-sheet, it is certain that the electorate would decline the barren honor of an imperialism that touched their pockets, and would promptly relinquish their Asiatic possessions. In other words, England holds on to India because it is profitable to do so. Colonial authorities who have made a study of the situation tell me that, in their opinion, the American public will soon discover that the cost of holding the Philippines is out of all proportion to the pos-

sible benefits to be received, and that the burden imposed on the American tax-payer will involve either the evacuation of the islands or such arrangements with the insurgents as will reduce the cost of American control to a nominal sum. If these views are not articulated in English newspapers it is because the average editor is too patriotic to say anything that might suggest the retirement of the United States from a position favorable to British commercial interests in Asia.



Hitherto England has paid for the open door through which Americans have passed. That the United States should pour out life and treasure like water for the benefit of the world is entirely in accordance with British ideas."

It would be difficult to induce the money-making American people to abandon the Philippines after having paid so dearly for the possession, and when the war is over the Americans will immediately proceed to make, what to any other nation might be a bad investment, pay, and become self-sustaining. The English correspondent who holds these pessimistic views does not thor-

oughly appreciate American characteristics. These characteristics are, perhaps, best illustrated in the forcible remark made recently by General Funston, which is being widely quoted. He said:

"We should stay here to the bitter end and raw-hide these bullet-headed Asians until they yell for mercy. After the war I want the job of Professor of American History in Luzon University, when they build it, and I'll warrant that the new generation of natives will know better than to get in the way of the band wagon of Anglo-Saxon progress and decency."

General Funston is, to be sure, a very pronounced type of the aggressive American, but his statement, although the rhetoric is rather highly colored very closely describes the American character. The American has little diplomacy and is almost savage in his intensity when opposed, but one having conquered, good-naturedly proceeds to educate his opponent to think as he does in the interest of future peace. A little diplomacy would save many a hard knock, but the American will have none of it. Now that the American people are aroused to the magnitude of the undertaking in the

Philippines, which knowledge General Otis' censorship has kept from them, they will demand the speedy stamping out of the rebellion, if it takes a million men. Before the pessimists at home and abroad are through with their gloomy forebodings the war will be over and there will be a boom on in the Philippines. Secretary Root is proving himself to be the right man in the right place. Probably no man has been called to the War Department who has had greater responsibilities upon his shoulders.